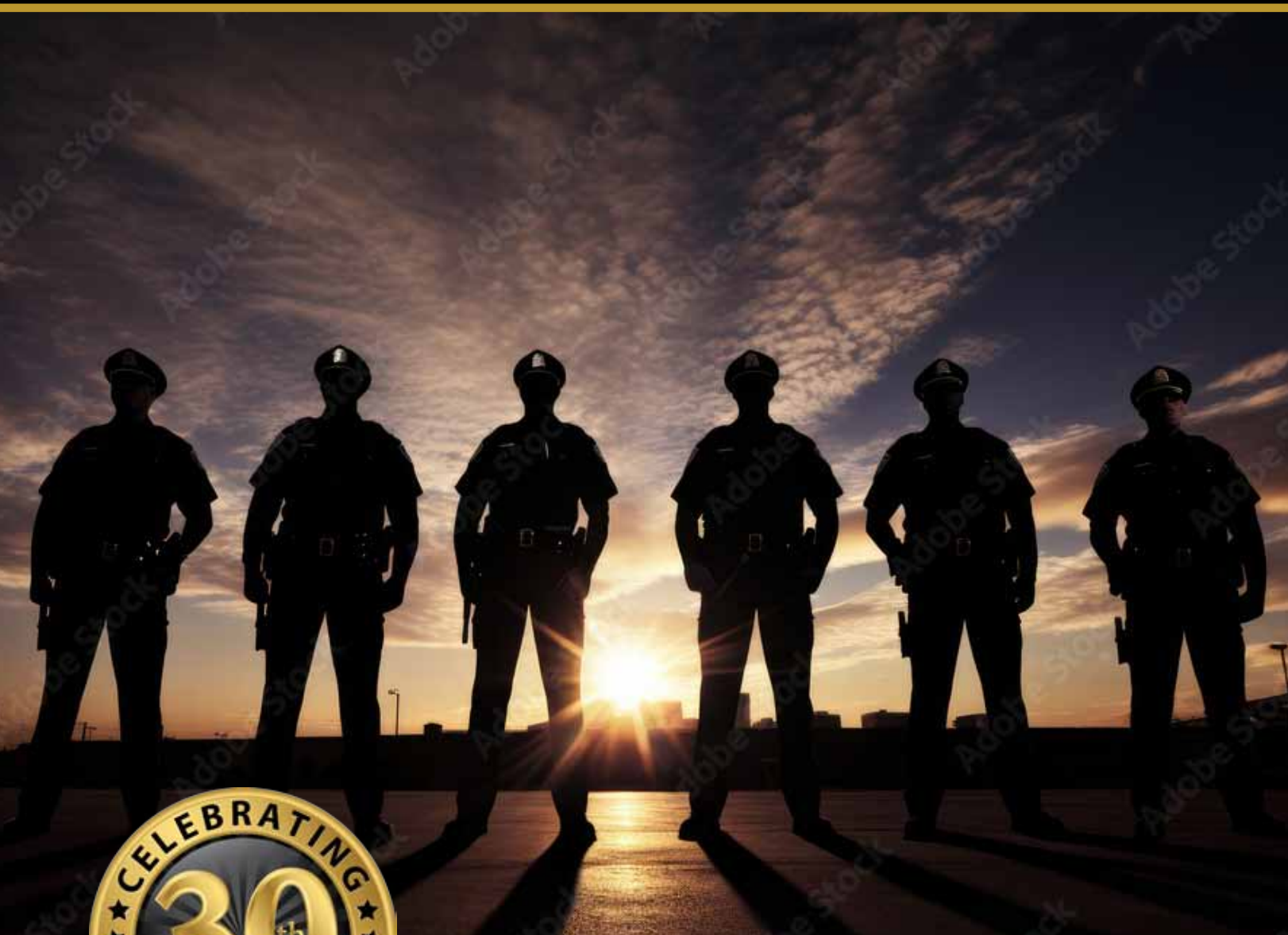


# **NATIONAL POLICE DEFENSE FOUNDATION**

*"Protecting and Supporting Law Enforcement for Over 30 Years"*



## **2025**

### **30th Anniversary Annual Awards Dinner**

### **May 7<sup>th</sup> 2025**



Dr. Frank E. Hendron

Chief John Cairo

# SUPPORTS LAW ENFORCEMENT

Congratulations to all the NPDF 2025 Honorees!

**GREAT NEWS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT  
AND AMERICAN JUSTICE**

*Congratulations*

- PAM BONDI, U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL
- KASH PATEL, FBI DIRECTOR
- DAN BONGINO, FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR
- TOM HOMAN, BORDER CZAR





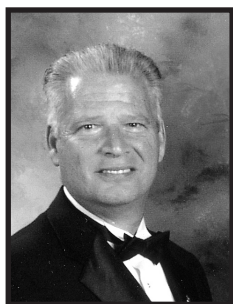
# NPDF

**NATIONAL POLICE DEFENSE FOUNDATION**

## *"Protecting and Supporting Law Enforcement"*




## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Dear NPDF Members and Supporters:

May 7, 2025

Welcome to the National Police Defense Foundation's 30th Anniversary Awards Gala where we will recognize our distinguished honorees while celebrating the long-term successes and achievements of the NPDF over the past three decades.



In 1995, my wife Angela and I established the NPDF at a point when there was a significant increase in armed assaults against our police as it became a widespread practice for criminals to make fabricated allegations of misconduct against the law enforcement officers to insulate themselves from prosecution.

As I look back, the NPDF membership started with a handful of law enforcement members and within thirty years we have grown to over 210,000 members and supporters nationwide and in twelve foreign countries. My prior experience as the President of the Federal Agents PBA Local 121 taught me that it was important to cooperate with other police unions and fraternal organizations nationwide. Our approved IRS 501 (c) (3) status was instrumental in raising substantial funds for their officers who were either seriously injured or killed in the line of duty.

As a Federal Agent, I saw firsthand how these drug cartels and crime syndicates were victimizing children through their nefarious criminal activities. In response, I established "Operations Kids," which is a multi-faceted, child safety program which posts rewards for the safe recovery of kidnapped children, identifies, and prosecutes pedophiles operating on the internet, as well as arranging lifesaving operations for critically ill children worldwide.

Furthermore, the NPDF established our congressionally recognized and federally trademarked “Safe Cop” program. We have been extraordinarily successful in posting a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person who shoots at a law enforcement officer or makes a death threat online or through social media, anywhere in the United States. The Safe Cop program also provides financial assistance to the officer’s family when their loved ones are critically ill, seriously injured, handicapped, or die in the line of duty.

In retrospect, I volunteered my efforts as the Founder and Executive Director to initiate these important law enforcement programs out of my love and respect for law enforcement. Now, since Angela and I are transitioning into semi-retirement, we will forever cherish all these memories and successes achieved by the NPDF. It is my fervent hope that the NPDF will continue to protect, defend and support the efforts of law enforcement for another thirty years with continued success!

Joseph Occipinti

Fraternally yours,  
SSA Joseph Occhipinti (Ret.)  
Founder & Executive Director

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# NPDF

**NATIONAL POLICE DEFENSE FOUNDATION**

## *"Protecting and Supporting Law Enforcement"*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear NPDF Member and Supporter:

May 7th, 2025

Welcome to Russo's on the Bay to join us for our 30th Anniversary and the 2025 National Police Defense Foundation's Annual Awards Night. This evening, we honor a few prestigious men and women who have bravely distinguished themselves in the Law Enforcement profession. We also bestow recognition and praise on a professional and a member of the media respectively, for their inspiring respect and admiration for the brave men and women of Law Enforcement in America.

The NPDF is proud to bestow our coveted “Woman of the Year Award” on US Coast Guard Admiral, Zeita Merchant as well as our “Man of the Year Award” to US Border Czar, Tom Homan for their dedicated service to our Country and our noble profession.

We are also honored to recognize United States Marshal, Ralph Sozio from the Southern District of New York with our prestigious “Lifetime Achievement Award” and proud to confer our “Member of the Year Award” on ASAC Anthony Lacorazza of the US Secret Service.

With great pride we award our 2025 NPDF “Humanitarian Award” to accomplished actor-director, Gary Sinise, for his unwavering support of Law Enforcement and the Armed Forces of the United States of America. This year’s “Excellence in Media Award” is proudly presented to New York Post Reporter, Joe Marino for recognizing the daily sacrifices made by Law Enforcement Officers in America.

In closing, I'd like to thank you all for coming this evening and supporting the National Police Defense Foundation. Let us enjoy each other's company in a show of appreciation and admiration for our distinguished honorees.

Fraternally,

*Michael Palladino*

Det. Michael J. Palladino (Ret.)  
President

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PHOTOGRAPHER Walter Taylor

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**NATIONAL POLICE DEFENSE FOUNDATION**

## *"Protecting and Supporting Law Enforcement"*



# WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

## Rear Admiral Zeita Merchant

*US Coast Guard*

Rear Admiral Zeita Merchant assumed the duties of Commander, Personnel Service Center (PSC) in Washington, D.C., in June 2024. In this capacity, she is responsible for executing the Coast Guard's human resource and talent management policies by recruiting, accessing, assigning, developing careers, maintaining well-being, compensating, separating, and retiring the nearly 45,000 members of the active duty and reserve work forces.

Prior to her assignment to PSC, Rear Admiral Merchant served as the Commander, U.S. Coast Guard Sector New York and Captain of the Port, where she demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the safety, security, and sustain ability of our Nation's most consequential marine transportation system. Her unmatched operational expertise in leading large-scale, multi-jurisdictional incident responses solidifies her status as one of the Coast Guard's top certified emergency managers and crisis response leaders.

Rear Admiral Merchant is a career operations ashore officer with tours across multiple units with a concentration in marine safety and security operations. Her operational excellence spans directing operations across Lake Michigan and along the Western Rivers as Commanding Officer, Marine Safety Unit Chicago. She also served as Executive Officer, Marine Safety Unit Texas City, Chief of Port Operations at Sector Miami and as a Marine Inspector and Port Operations Officer at Marine Safety Office New Orleans. Beyond operational roles, her strategic insight has been pivotal serving as Special Assistant to the 27th and 28th Vice Commandants, an U.S. Congressional Fellow, and an Executive Strategic Planner.

Rear Admiral Merchant's academic achievements include a Doctor of Business Administration, Master of Quality Systems Management, Master of Public Administration, and a Bachelor of Science in Biology. Her commitment to academic excellence is further exemplified by her fellowships at both Harvard Kennedy School of Government's Belfer and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Seminar XXI National Security and Foreign Affairs.

Rear Admiral Merchant's accolades include a Legion of Merit, multiple Meritorious Service Medals, Coast Guard Commendation and Achievement Medals, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medals, Commandant's Letters of Commendation, and prestigious civic honors including two honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees. She is also the Coast Guard's 2018 Captain David H. Jarvis Inspirational Leadership Award winner and an Honorary Chief. Rear Admiral Merchant's legacy extends beyond operational prowess with her dedication to philanthropy, volunteerism, and mentorship of future leaders, solidifying her inspirational role within the military landscape and leaving an enduring impact on the Coast Guard and the Nation.







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# MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

**Thomas "Tom" Douglas Homan**  
*US Border Czar*

Thomas Douglas Homan was born November 28, 1961 is a former police officer, immigration official, and political commentator who served during the Obama administration, the first Trump administration and has now been appointed to serve in the second Trump administration as Border Czar. He served as acting director of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) from January 30, 2017 to June 29, 2018.

Tom Homan was born in West Carthage, New York, into a Roman Catholic family. His father and grandfather were West Carthage police officers as well. He received an Associate Degree in criminal justice from Jefferson Community College and a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from SUNY Polytechnic Institute. In 1983, he also became a West Carthage police officer.

In 1984, Tom joined the Immigration and Naturalization Service, serving as a Border Patrol agent, investigator, and supervisor. He was appointed by President Barack Obama as Immigration and Customs Enforcement's executive associate director of enforcement and removal operations in 2013.

On January 30, 2017, President Donald Trump appointed Tom as acting director where In May 2017, he announced ICE had arrested 41,319 people between Inauguration Day and the end of April, a 38% increase from the same period the year before.

On November 14, 2017, Trump nominated Tom Homan for ICE Director where he retired from that position as acting ICE Director in June 2018 and began contributing to Fox News as a commentator.

In July 2019, Tom testified before the House Oversight Committee regarding illegal entry into the USA. He declared that a third of all women who cross the border get raped, and that turning a blind eye to the border would result in an increase of child mortality. On January 20, 2025 Tom Homan began serving as Border Czar in the second Trump administration where, within 36 hours of President Trump taking office Tom oversaw the arrest of over 460 illegal aliens who were accused of murder, rape, robbery and other serious crimes in their country of origin.



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*Speaker of the General Assembly*





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The National Police Defense Foundation is proud to present Gary Sinise with our 2025 Humanitarian Award.

*Speaker of the General Assembly*



The National Police Defense Foundation is proud to present U.S. Marshal Ralph Sozio with our Lifetime Achievement Award.



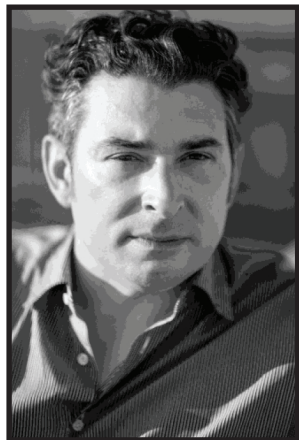
*Speaker of the General Assembly*



# NPDF

**NATIONAL POLICE DEFENSE FOUNDATION**

## *“Protecting and Supporting Law Enforcement”*



# EXCELLENCE IN MEDIA AWARD

# Joe Marino

*New York Post Reporter*

Joe Marino is a New York City crime reporter, photographer, film maker and producer, born, raised, and based in Brooklyn, New York. Although he originally planned to study acting and theater, Joe eventually graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in politics from New York University's College of Arts and Sciences.

In 2007, Joe worked his way into New York's iconic 'picture paper,' the New York Daily News, as a photographer hustling the breaking news and crime beat. Joe's central journalistic and artistic preoccupation over the following eight years would revolve around documenting the human drama of New York City through the lens of true crime and breaking news. Whether it be the inconsolable and senseless loss of life due to street violence, or the sometimes-heroic saves, he wanted to create a visceral and complete living history of life in New York City where every neighborhood, victim, community affected was worthy of having their story told. Joe captured images of perps, scoundrels, heroes, lawmen, and most importantly - everyday New Yorkers.

Joe has been recognized by the New York Press Club, and the New York Press Photographers Association with work also featured in the New York Times, Newsweek, People and the HBO documentary, 'The Newburgh Sting.'

In 2018, while making his rounds Joe listened to police and fire scanners where he then photographed newsworthy stories where he later produced and directed his first short film, 'Nightside', an after-hours look at New York City on the true crime tabloid beat.

Today, Joe Marino is a senior law enforcement reporter at the New York Post. For the last four years he's delved into the impact on New York State's Criminal Justice reform legislation on the public safety landscape, while taking deep dives into the impact of transnational criminal groups in New York City since the New York City's migrant crisis with in-depth, nationally syndicated reporting on Trene de Argua, Los Diablos 42, and other cross-national criminality with nexuses to New York City such as narcotics, gun and human trafficking.

The NPDF is proud to present Joe Marino with our Excellence in Media Award.



*Speaker of the General Assembly*







Craig J. Coughlin  
Speaker of the General Assembly

University of Pittsburg



# NPDF

**NATIONAL POLICE DEFENSE FOUNDATION**

## *“Protecting and Supporting Law Enforcement”*



**U.S. Department of Justice**

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Office of the Director

Washington, D.C. 20535-0001

April 15, 2025

**Mr. Joseph Occhipinti**  
**Founder and Executive Director**  
**National Police Defense Foundation**  
 Suite C, Building 2  
 21 Kilmer Drive  
 Morganville, NJ 07751

Dear Mr. Occhipinti:

On behalf of the FBI, I am pleased to congratulate you and all the members of the National Police Defense Foundation (NPDF) on your 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and wish you a successful celebration.

This noteworthy event will, I am sure, generate much reflection on the history and accomplishments of the NPDF, as well as its individual members past and present, whose dedicated efforts helped establish the great heritage of this organization. I also want to extend my gratitude to this year's distinguished honorees for their outstanding contributions to the law enforcement community. These patriots devoted their lives to protecting the American people and making our country a better, safer place to live, and the United States has greatly benefited from their expertise and commitment over the years. The men and women who put their lives on the line every day to defend our values deserve to be recognized for their bravery and selflessness. All of us in the Bureau understand this is a no-fail mission, and it takes collaboration between federal, state, and local law enforcement partners to ensure everyone can pursue the American dream.

I am honored to work alongside the NPDF and our exceptional law enforcement partners across the country to strengthen national security, uphold law and order, and secure a prosperous future for our children.

Sincerely yours,

Kashyap P. Patel  
Director

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# NPDF

**NATIONAL POLICE DEFENSE FOUNDATION**

## *“Protecting and Supporting Law Enforcement”*



UNITED STATES POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE

INSPECTOR IN CHARGE – NEW YORK DIVISION

February 5, 2025

**Mr. Joseph Occhipinti**  
**Founder & Executive Director**  
**National Police Defense Foundation**  
**21 Kilmer Drive**  
**Building 2, Suite C**  
**Morganville, NJ 07751**

Dear Mr. Occhipinti,

On behalf of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service's New York Division, I am honored to accept your invitation to attend the National Police Defense Foundation Awards Gala scheduled for May 7, 2025.

I would like to extend my congratulations on the anniversary of the National Police Defense Foundation and the remarkable work you have done throughout the years in support of law enforcement and the communities they serve. This year's Awards Gala is a testament to the Foundation's commitment to advancing vital programs and initiatives that protect and support our officers.

The National Police Defense Foundation has played an essential role in providing scholarships, funding critical programs like "Operation Kids" and "Safe Cop", and ensuring that the safety and well-being of our brave officers, and their families, remain a top priority. The Foundation's impact on both law enforcement professionals and the public is truly commendable.

I would also like to take a moment to honor this year's distinguished honorees. Their dedication to the law enforcement community exemplifies courage, service, and leadership.

**Congratulations once again to the National Police Defense Foundation on the anniversary, and to this year's award recipients. I look forward to witnessing the continued success of your efforts in the years to come.**

Sincerely,

Brennan T. Durbin

**Brendan Donahue**  
Acting Inspector in Charge  
New York Division

P.O. BOX 555  
NEWYORK NY 10116-0555  
877-876-2455

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**NATIONAL POLICE DEFENSE FOUNDATION**

## *“Protecting and Supporting Law Enforcement”*



NEW YORK STATE  
State Police

**KATHY HOCHUL**  
Governor

**STEVEN G. JAMES**  
Superintendent

February 5, 2025

Mr. Joseph Occhipinti  
Founder & Executive Direction  
National Police Defense Foundation  
21 Kilmer Drive, Building 2, Suite C  
Morganville, New Jersey 07751

Dear Mr. Occhipinti:

On behalf of the New York State Police, I would like to extend my congratulations to all the honorees of the National Police Defense Foundation.

Your hard work, dedication, and unwavering commitment to support law enforcement professionals do not go unnoticed. The efforts you put forth in advocating for officer safety, assisting families, and ensuring the well-being of those who serve are truly commendable. Your contributions strengthen the law enforcement community and make a lasting impact on officers and their families.

Thank you for your continued service and dedication. Please know that your efforts are deeply appreciated and valued.

Sincerely,

Steven G. James  
Superintendent



# NPDF

**NATIONAL POLICE DEFENSE FOUNDATION**

## *“Protecting and Supporting Law Enforcement”*



State of New Jersey

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE  
POST OFFICE BOX 7068  
WEST TRENTON, NJ 08628-0068  
(609) 882-2000

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
Governor

TAHESHA L. WAY  
*Lt. Governor*

MATTHEW J. PLATKIN  
*Attorney General*

COLONEL PATRICK J. CALLAHAN  
*Superintendent*

May 7, 2025

National Police Defense Foundation  
21 Kilmer Drive, Building 2, Suite F  
Morganville, New Jersey 07751

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the New Jersey State Police, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the honorees of the National Police Defense Foundation's (NPDF) 30th Annual Awards Dinner. This year's recipients truly embody the Foundation's mission to safeguard and support the noble work of law enforcement. The unwavering dedication of the Foundation and its members to law enforcement, first responders, and the citizens of New Jersey is both commendable and deeply appreciated. Your commitment to service and protect makes a lasting impact, and we honor your invaluable contributions.

The National Police Defense Foundation, one of the largest police foundations in the nation, is dedicated to supporting law enforcement and child safety initiatives. As a vital organization, the NPDF plays a crucial role in enhancing public safety, advocating for justice, and providing essential resources to officers and communities. Its acclaimed “Operation Kids” program offers free child fingerprint/DNA kits to parents, sponsors youth athletic events, posts rewards for missing children, issues scholarships, funds, Project Pedophile, and arranges lifesaving medical treatment for critically ill children worldwide earning the personal endorsement of John Walsh and recognition on the “CBS Early Show.” To combat online predators, the program also launched “Project SAFE NET,” offering a \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond for tips leading to the federal arrest of internet-based pedophiles. The NPDF is also nationally recognized for providing free medical and psychological services to disabled law enforcement officers, including financial aid for medical debt and confidential counseling through its partnership with the “COP 2 COP” program. Established in 1995 and entered into the “Congressional Record,” the NPDF’s trademarked “Safe Cop” program posts up to a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone who shoots a police officer, helping to bring cop killers to justice. Expanding on this mission, the “Save a First Responder” program offers a similar reward for attacks on police, fire, and EMS personnel, while the “Save a K-9 Officer” initiative addresses the alarming rise in armed assaults on K9 police dogs.

Once again, congratulations to the award recipients, and a sincere thank you to the National Police Defense Foundation for your continued efforts to support those who serve their local communities daily.

Sincerely,

*Patsy J. Callahan*

Patrick J. Callahan  
Colonel  
Superintendent



*"An Internationally Accredited Agency"*

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**NATIONAL POLICE DEFENSE FOUNDATION**

## *“Protecting and Supporting Law Enforcement”*



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,  
Firearms and Explosives  
*New York Field Division*  
32 Old Slip  
35<sup>th</sup> Floor - Suite 3500  
New York, NY 10005

March 3, 2025  
www.atf.gov.

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Joseph Occhipinti  
Executive Director  
National Police Defense Foundation  
21 Kilmer Drive, Bldg 2, Ste C  
Morganville, NJ 07751

Executive Director Occhipinti,

On behalf of the New York Field Division of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF), I would like to thank you for your continuing support and commitment to the brave members of the law enforcement community. Your Foundation provides invaluable support to our law enforcement family year after year, which is paramount to our continued success.

The Foundation's financial assistance to law enforcement families during times of tragedy, educational scholarships, and other programs are deeply appreciated and incredibly impactful. Your work has also strengthened the partnerships between federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, as the values and roles of law enforcement are continually tested.

I am grateful for your efforts and would be honored to join you at the annual luncheon to celebrate the accomplishments of our law enforcement professionals. Congratulations to this year's honorees!

*[Signature]*

Bryan R. Miller  
Special Agent in Charge

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**NATIONAL POLICE DEFENSE FOUNDATION**

## *“Protecting and Supporting Law Enforcement”*



One World Trade Center, 50th Floor  
New York, NY 10007-0101



## U.S. Customs and Border Protection

February 6, 2025

Mr. Joseph Occhipinti  
Founder and Executive Director  
National Police Defense Foundation

Dear Mr. Occhipinti,

On behalf of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in the New York Field Office, I am honored to attend the National Police Defense Foundation's (NPDF) 30th Anniversary 2025 Awards Gala and extend our highest commendations to all of the distinguished honorees on their remarkable achievements.

The NPDF has assisted law enforcement officers, families, children, and victims of public safety and crime during adversity for three decades. The foundation's commitment to helping the general public and providing invaluable programs to our communities is commendable. While we live in a world where challenges and changes are constant, I find it imperative that our officers, children, and families can depend on foundations, such as the NPDF, to provide support. Whether through legal assistance, medical aid, or financial relief, I am proud to encourage the NPDF's efforts to promote public safety and protect our dedicated law enforcement officers.

Through programs such as Operation Kids, the foundation has promoted public safety by providing children with free identification cards and assisting with cases involving missing children. Another key program, SAFE COP, offers justice for officers wrongfully accused, advocacy for officer rights, and assistance to officers injured in the line of duty.

The strength of our community depends on our willingness to support each other. I wish continued success to the foundation's exceptional work and the distinguished honorees who will continue to impact today's society. Once again, I would like to thank the NPDF for upholding our shared mission values and your continued efforts to support law enforcement officers and the communities we serve.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Francis J. Russo  
Director, Field Operations  
New York Field Office  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

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**NATIONAL POLICE DEFENSE FOUNDATION**

## *“Protecting and Supporting Law Enforcement”*



**DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**  
**INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20224**

## Criminal Investigation

April 2, 2025

Joseph Occhipinti  
Founder and Director  
National Police Defense Foundation  
Morganville, New Jersey 07751

Dear Director Occhipinti,

It is an honor to join you, the board members and the many distinguished guest at the 2025 National Police Defense Foundation's 30<sup>th</sup> Awards Gala. I would like to congratulate this year's award recipients. It is an outstanding group, demonstrating true public service!

I know you dedicate countless hours to organize this ceremony to honor the award recipients. Due to your dedication, commitment, and loyalty the event is always a success. Thank you for your continued support and for all that you have done for the law enforcement community.

On behalf of the IRS-Criminal Investigation in New Jersey, I wanted to say congratulations to today's award recipients. Their dedication makes communities a safer place to live and work.

Sincerely

Jennifer & Pioneers

Jenifer Piovesan  
Special Agent in Charge  
Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigations  
New Jersey Field Office.

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# NPDF

**NATIONAL POLICE DEFENSE FOUNDATION**

## *“Protecting and Supporting Law Enforcement”*



**United States Department of State**  
***Diplomatic Security Service***

Two Executive Drive, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
Fort Lee, New Jersey 07024

March 21, 2025

Mr. Joseph Occhipinti  
Founder & Executive Director  
National Police Defense Foundation  
21 Kilmer Drive  
Morganville, NJ 07751

Dear Mr. Occhipinti,

On behalf of Diplomatic Security Service's New York Field Office, congratulations to the 2025 distinguished honorees of the National Police Defense Foundation!

I would also like to express my gratitude to you, the executive board and the foundation for their continued support of the law enforcement profession. The work of the foundation in fostering collaboration reaches far beyond law enforcement by strengthening partnerships in public and private industries and the communities we serve and protect.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication and the kind invitation to the 2025 National Police Defense Foundation's 30<sup>th</sup> Awards Gala. It is my honor to join with the law enforcement community in recognizing these honorees and celebrating the excellent work of the foundation.

Sincerely,

BKWL

Brian K. Wood  
Special Agent in Charge  
New York Field Office

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# NPDF

**NATIONAL POLICE DEFENSE FOUNDATION**

## *“Protecting and Supporting Law Enforcement”*



**Message From Raymond A. Tierney**  
**Suffolk County District Attorney**



To the National Police Defense Foundation (NPDF), Board Members and Distinguished Honorees:

I am happy to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for the NPDF and the critical work they do in support of law enforcement, public safety professionals, and the communities they serve. Your commitment to protecting those who protect us is both admirable and essential.

This prestigious event recognizes those who go above and beyond in service to our country, and tonight's awardees exemplify that spirit in every way. Congratulations to all the honorees on this well-earned recognition – you continue to set the standard for what service and leadership look like.

In a world that often overlooks the sacrifices of those in uniform, the NPDF continues to shine a light on them. I am grateful such an organization exists and hope their efforts continue to inspire others across the country.

Respectfully yours,

*Raymond A. Tierney*  
RAYMOND A. TIERNEY  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

RAYMOND A. TIERNEY

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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**NATIONAL POLICE DEFENSE FOUNDATION**

## *“Protecting and Supporting Law Enforcement”*



**U. S. Department of Justice**  
Drug Enforcement Administration  
99 Tenth Avenue  
New York, NY 10011

[www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov)

April 18, 2025

Mr. Joseph Occhipinti  
Founder & Executive Director  
National Police Defense Foundation  
21 Kilmer Drive  
Building 2, Suite C  
Morganville, NJ 07751

Dear Mr. Occhipinti:

It is an honor to join you, the Board of Directors, and my law enforcement colleagues at the National Police Defense Foundation 30<sup>th</sup> Awards Gala. The men and women of the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) appreciate organizations like the National Police Defense Foundation (NPDF) who have a history of supporting the law enforcement community and their families.

The NPDF 30<sup>th</sup> Awards Gala provides an opportunity for law enforcement personnel to gather and celebrate their exceptional contributions to the community. The gala also serves as an opportunity to appreciate and recognize NPDF's critical role in strengthening the partnership between the community and law enforcement as we increase our enforcement, education, and prevention strategies to save more lives.

On behalf of the New York Division, I would like to congratulate this year's award recipients and thank you again for your partnership in making communities safer and healthier.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Frank A. Tarentino

Frank A. Tarentino III  
Special Agent in Charge  
New York Division

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# NPDF

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## OPERATION KIDS LIFE SAVING OPERATIONS

As part of "Operation Kids", the NPDF coordinated the following noteworthy humanitarian projects that provided lifesaving operations and medical treatments for critically ill and severely handicapped children worldwide. These humanitarian projects often involve the NPDF's travel abroad for conferences with foreign government officials, procurement of State Department visas, liaison with police organizations and the transportation of these children to the United States for lifesaving operations and medical treatment.



**Grendel de Jesus Moran, Dominican Republic** In August 2017, a local New Jersey clergyman and some elected officials from Santiago, Dominican Republic asked for the help of "Operation Kids" in securing a cochlear implant for 18-month-old Grendel De Jesus Moran who has been deaf since birth. NPDF Director Joseph Occhipinti went to the American Embassy in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic and successfully lobbied consular officials to issue a humanitarian medical visa. The NPDF was successful in this endeavor through the help of the "Fresh Start for Kids Foundation" who arranged for the operation that took place at the Chicago Comer Children's Hospital in May 2018. The NPDF paid for all the air transportation, lodging and related expenses for the toddler and mother while undergoing medical treatment in the United States.



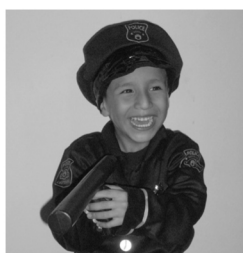
**Leslie Denise Samuel Cuello, Dominican Republic** Leslie is a 13-month-old girl who was suffering from stenosis of the esophagus and thus needed endoscopic dilation and surgery in the United States. NPDF Director Joseph Occhipinti lobbied consular officials at the American Consulate at Santo Domingo to issue Leslie a medical visa that enabled her to successfully undergo surgery at t Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in Manhattan.



**Kendry Allantara Beltre, Dominican Republic** Kendry was a newborn baby born with a severe birth defect that has created orthopedic problems that requires surgery in the United States. In March 2018, NPDF officials is attempting to locate a medical facility in the United States that is willing to do the surgery as a charitable case.



**Nolan Boulter, United States** Nolan was born with a very rare neonatal epileptic condition called KCNQ2 Encephalopathy that causes abnormal changes or mutations in a gene that are associated with seizures and impaired cognitive and motor skill development. Nolan's mom who is a federal agent asked for the NPDF's financial assistance due to outstanding medical debt and as a result a medical fund was established that has raised substantial funds to help the Boulter family.



**Denny Benavides, Ecuador** In 2006, Denny Benavides was a five-year old boy suffering from a severe case of scoliosis that was complicated since his heart was on the opposite side of his body. At the request of a DEA Agent assigned to Guayaquil, Ecuador, NPDF Director Joseph Occhipinti helped secure a medical visa for Denny who was evaluated at Montefiore Hospital, Bronx, New York. Surgeons recommended that the surgery be performed when he becomes a teenager and in March 2018, Denny underwent a successful surgery in his homeland that was arranged by the NPDF. for him.



**Elias Flores-Mena** In April 2022, The NPDF was requested by the Ecuadorian Police Foundation to coordinate with the Gift of Life, Inc, a life-saving heart operation for one-year-old Baby Elias Flores-Mena from Santo Domingo, Ecuador. Baby Elias has been suffering with severe coronary heart issues since birth and his case is actively being pursued.



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# SAFE COP PROGRAM



In 1995, the NPDF established the federally trademarked and congressionally recognized “Safe Cop” program in an effort to address the serious increase of armed assaults on law enforcement officers nationwide. This law enforcement initiative posts up to a \$10,000 reward for public information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person who shoots at a law enforcement officer. In addition, the program has been instrumental in providing critical medical care, financial assistance and death benefits to law enforcement personnel either seriously injured or killed in the line of duty. Below is a list of officers the NPDF has provided services and posted rewards for over the past two decades.

Ecuadoran Police Officer Jorge Arias  
Ecuadoran Police Officer Angelica Borja  
FBI Special Agent Barry Bush  
New Jersey Police Officer Joyce Carnegie  
Ecuadoran Police Corporal Nancy Choto  
Massachusetts Police Officer Sean Collier  
New Jersey Police Officer Mary Ann Collura  
South Carolina Deputy Sheriff Dennis Compton  
Florida Police Officer David Crawford  
Aruba Police Officer Agberti Croes  
Florida Deputy Sheriff Michael Erickson  
Arkansas Corporal Barbara Ester  
New Jersey Police Officer Tyrone Franklin  
Virgin Island Police Officer Colvin Georges  
FBI Special Agent Sam Hicks  
Florida Police Officer Jeffrey Kobak  
Florida Police Officer David Curtis  
New Jersey Police Officer Steven Leone  
Police Officer Marty Leverton  
Florida Police Officer Karen Long  
New York State Trooper Joseph Longobardo  
New York State Trooper Donald Baker  
New Jersey Police Officer Christopher Matlosz  
New Hampshire Police Officer Nate Morrison  
New York City Corrections Captain Delvin Ponds  
New York Correction Officer Andrew Morgan  
Florida Deputy Sheriff Paul Rein  
Arkansas Patrolman Jonathon Schmidt  
Ecuadoran Lieutenant Sammy Vinueza  
Pennsylvania Police Officer Moses Walker  
Georgia Police Officer Danny Rogers

Pennsylvania Police Officer Frederick Cione  
 Border Patrol Barrett Blick  
 Georgia Deputy Sheriff Cruz Thomas  
 New York Police Officer Daryl Pierson  
 Florida Police Officer Curtis Koebak  
 New York Police Officer Dennis Guerra  
 Florida Deputy Sheriff Jonathon Pine  
 Connecticut Police Officer Kenneth Bateman  
 New York Police Officer Rafael Ramos  
 New York Police Officer Wenjian Liu  
 New Jersey Patrolman Stephen Arkell  
 New Jersey First Responder Tim Geoghegan  
 ATF Special Agent William Sheldon  
 DEA ASAC L. Alan Bassham  
 ATF Special Agent Carlos Montalvo  
 Louisiana Police Officer Brian Hanrahan  
 Florida Deputy Maury Hernandez  
 Pennsylvania Trooper Cpl. Byron Dickson  
 Florida Deputy Michael Erickson  
 Illinois Deputy Cuahtemoc Estrada  
 FBI SSA Robert Levinson (ret)  
 Arkansas Trumann Police Department Grant  
 New Jersey Police Officer Brian Worell  
 Kentucky Police Officer Jason Ellis  
 Ohio Police Officer Kevin Brame  
 HIS Special Agent Donald Pettit  
 LA County Deputy Ryan Clinkunbroomer (CA)  
 Herman Sergeant Mason Griffin (MO)  
 Melvindale P.O. Mohamad Said (MI)  
 Trooper Adam Cothron (TN)  
 Blount County Deputy Greg McGowan







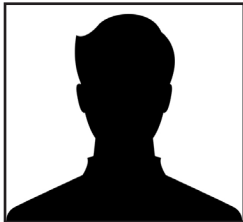
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# SAFE COP Support Services For Disabled and Slain Officers

The NPDF expanded the "Safe Cop" program to provide critical medical care, financial assistance and death benefits to law enforcement personnel either seriously injured or killed in the line of duty.



## 2024 NPDF GIVES HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ECUADORIAN POLICE SERGEANT ROLAN GUILLERMO GARCIA GONZALEZ

In June 2024, the National Police Defense Foundation received a request from the Ecuadorian National Police requesting humanitarian assistance for Police Sergeant Rolan Guillermo Garcia Gonzalez whose leg had to be amputated as the result of a hit and run incident in 2008. The NPDF arranged for the purchase a new prosthetic which enabled the sergeant to participate in Paralytic sporting activities. This greatly enhanced the Sergeant's ability to compete, carry out his official police duties and once again, have the quality of life he deserves.



## 2024 Safe Cop Journal Addendum Re: ATF Special Agent Carlos Valles

On August 30th, 2023, undercover ATF Special Agent Carlos Valles went to a residence in a city near New Orleans for the purpose of purchasing Fentanyl as part of a drug investigation. After entering the apartment, several suspects entered the room with guns drawn where they ordered Valles and his informant to lie on the ground in an effort to execute them. In order to escape, they jumped off the apartment's third floor balcony sustaining pernicious injuries where he underwent extensive emergency surgery. The NPDF responded by creating the "Carlos Valles Family Support Fund" in order to assist Carlos' family in defraying the high cost of out-of-state travel and lodging, which included a handicapped equipped van during his rehabilitation. Through the generosity of NPDF donors, the NPDF raised over \$180,000 to benefit of S/A Valles and his family.



## NPDF FUNDS FUNERAL FOR HERO DHS CUSTOMS AGENT KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

The National Police Defense Foundation (NPDF) established the CBP Marine Interdiction Agent Michel Maceda, who was killed in the line of duty on November 17, 2022. The hero agent was shot and killed during a maritime narcotics interdiction operation near Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico. He and two other agents intercepted a vessel they believed to be transporting narcotics. One of the occupants of the vessel opened fire on the agents as they began to board it. All three agents and both suspects were shot during the ensuing melee. Over thirteen hundred kilograms of cocaine were recovered from the boat the agents were attempting to board. The NPDF came to the aid of the agents family by paying for the entire cost of his funeral and interment.



## DONATION OF SLAIN POLICE DOG TO SLIDELL (LA) POLICE DEPARTMENT

On October 30, 2022, the National Police Defense Foundation established a canine memorial fund for the Slidell, Louisiana Police Department who tragically lost K-9 "Kano" on August 11, 2022 in the line of duty. K-9 Kano were dispatched to a burglary/theft in progress. Upon arrival the suspect fled on foot and entered a wooded area. K-9 Kano tracked the suspect and eventually apprehended him. Shortly thereafter K-9 Kano became lethargic and was having trouble breathing. The dog was rushed to an animal clinic and was diagnosed with spleen cancer. Kano died due to extreme exertion compounded by the cancer. The NPDF donated funds to the Slidell Police Foundation to help donate a new police dog to the department.



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# SAFE COP Support Services For Disabled and Slain Officers

(Continued)

**ATF S/A ADAM DANIELS FAMILY SUPPORT FUND**

On October 5th, 2021, in Nashville, Tennessee, ATF Special Agent Adam Daniels was shot and critically wounded in an intense gun battle with a gunman who was out on parole at the time. The NPDF at the request of ATF officials established the "S/A Adam Daniels Family Fund" since family members needed funds for out of state travel and lodging in order to provide care for the agent while he underwent months of rehabilitation. The NPDF was successful in raising tens of thousands of dollar through the generosity of its members and supporters, as well as doing a fundraiser in Nashville in February 2022, "Adamfest" where renowned country singers gave a concert to benefit the fund. On May 11, 2022, S/A Daniels was the recipient of the NPDF Valor award at its annual awards dinner. Today, the agent continues to receive rehabilitation that has enabled him to



**POLICE OFFICER SCOTTY HAMILTON**  
**PIKESVILLE KY POLICE DEPARTMENT**

On Tuesday, March 13, 2018, while conducting patrol with other officers, Officer Scotty Hamilton encountered a suspicious vehicle. The area was known for drug-trafficking incidents where officers were maintaining a presence. Officer Hamilton went up an embankment and was shot in the head and pronounced dead at the scene.



**DEPUTY SHERIFF SGT. DANIEL SCOTT BAKER  
DICKSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, TENNESSEE**

On May 29, 2018, a male resident in the Sam Vineyard Road area off Tidwell Switch Road reported seeing a suspicious vehicle. Deputy Sheriff Sgt. Daniel Scott Baker responded to the call, but after a period, failed to check in with dispatchers. Officer Baker's vehicle was tracked by GPS, and an officer with another agency was able to find it in a wooded area about two miles away from the initial call. Baker was found dead inside. The NPDP offered to post a \$10,000 reward for the capture of the shooting suspect and the suspect has been apprehended pending prosecution.



**POLICE OFFICER TYLER HORN**  
**STATESVILLE NC POLICE DEPARTMENT**

On June 15, 2018, Officer Tyler Horn and his partner were on foot routine patrol when a man came out of the shadows and shot Officer Horn in the back. His bullet proof vest took the brunt of the gunshot. The officer was taken to Iredell Memorial Hospital, treated and released.



**POLICE OFFICER MICHAEL HALE**  
**SELMA AL POLICE DEPARTMENT**

On September 23, 2018, Michael Hale, a 10-year veteran of the police department, was shot. The bullet penetrated his vest, but did not hit any vital organs. Officer Hale sped away once he realized that he was being ambushed, but due to his injuries, lost control of the vehicle and crashed approximately one block from the ambush location. The injured policeman radioed for help and a fellow officer rushed him to Vaughn Medical Center in Selma where he was airlifted to a hospital in Birmingham.

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# SAFE COP Support Services For Disabled and Slain Officers

(Continued)



**POLICE OFFICER ANTWAN TONEY  
GWINNET COUNTY GA POLICE DEPARTMENT  
END OF WATCH: OCTOBER 20, 2018**

On October 20, 2018, Officer Antwan Toney and his partner were responding to a call regarding a report of people smoking marijuana near the middle school. As the two officers approached the vehicle, shots rang out and Officer Toney was struck. His partner dragged him to safety where he was taken to Gwinnett County Medical Center and was pronounced dead. One assailant was arrested and charged with Aggravated Assault and another assailant is still at large.



**NEWMAN CA POLICE CORPORAL RONIL "RON" SINGH**  
**NEWMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

On December 27, 2018, Corporal Singh was shot and killed by an illegal immigrant during a traffic stop for a drunk driving investigation. He was shot after radioing that he was pulling over a gray pickup truck with no license plate. The suspect was apprehended and the prosecution is pending.



**BLUEFIELD VIRGINIA POLICE OFFICER**

On February 16, 2019, an unidentified police officer was shot during a routine traffic stop by the passenger of the vehicle. The officer was taken to the hospital and treated for serious, but not life threatening injuries. The driver got out of the vehicle and surrendered, however, the passenger identified as Donquale M. Gray got behind the wheel and sped away. The NPDP was contacted by the U.S. Marshals where the Safe Cop reward was posted and on March 7, 2019 the suspect was reportedly killed during a shootout with federal agents.



## ECUADORIAN CORPORAL ANGELICA BORJA

In February 2012, NPDF officials were asked by Police Administrators at the Ecuadorian Police Hospital in Quito to help 30 year old Corporal Angelica Borja who was victim of a “hit & run” accident that occurred in September 2009 during a police stop of a motorist. In August 2012, the NPDF successfully arranged and procured for Corporal Borja a prosthetic limb that enabled her return to Ecuador where she continues to perform her law enforcement duties as a Police Officer.





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# SAFE COP Support Services For Disabled and Slain Officers

(Continued)



## ECUADORIAN POLICE CORPORAL NANCY CHOTO

On April 7, 2013, the NPDF at the request of the Commanding General of the Ecuadorian National Police brought into the United States Corporal Nancy Choto for a prosthetic leg after she was the victim of a hit and run accident in May 2012. The injuries led to the amputation of her leg and she was further traumatized when her husband took his life distressed by her injuries and disability. In May 2013, Corporal Choto received her prosthetic leg through the efforts of the NPDF and returned to Ecuador where she continues to perform her law enforcement duties as a Police Officer.



**DOMINICAN POLICE COLONEL BIENVENIDO PEREZ (RET)**

In April 2018, NPDF Delegate to the Dominican Republic Col. Bienvenido Perez while visiting the United States had a medical emergency. He was admitted to a New Jersey hospital where he was diagnosed for having a 99% blockage of his Carotid artery, which would have resulted in a stroke and or heart attack. NPDF officials immediately arranged for their delegate to undergo an emergency operation that is credited for saving his life. The NPDF also established a medical fund and arranged for full payment of his medical treatment in the United States. .







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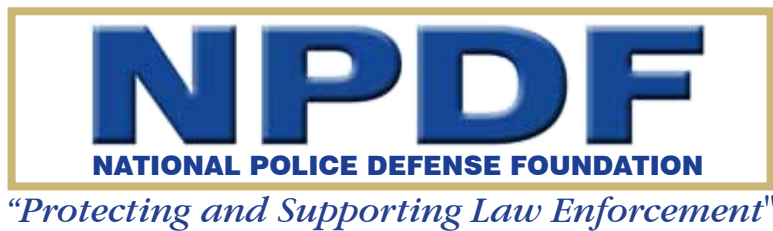
The legal team at Pope Law, led by Anthony Pope, bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to every case they handle.



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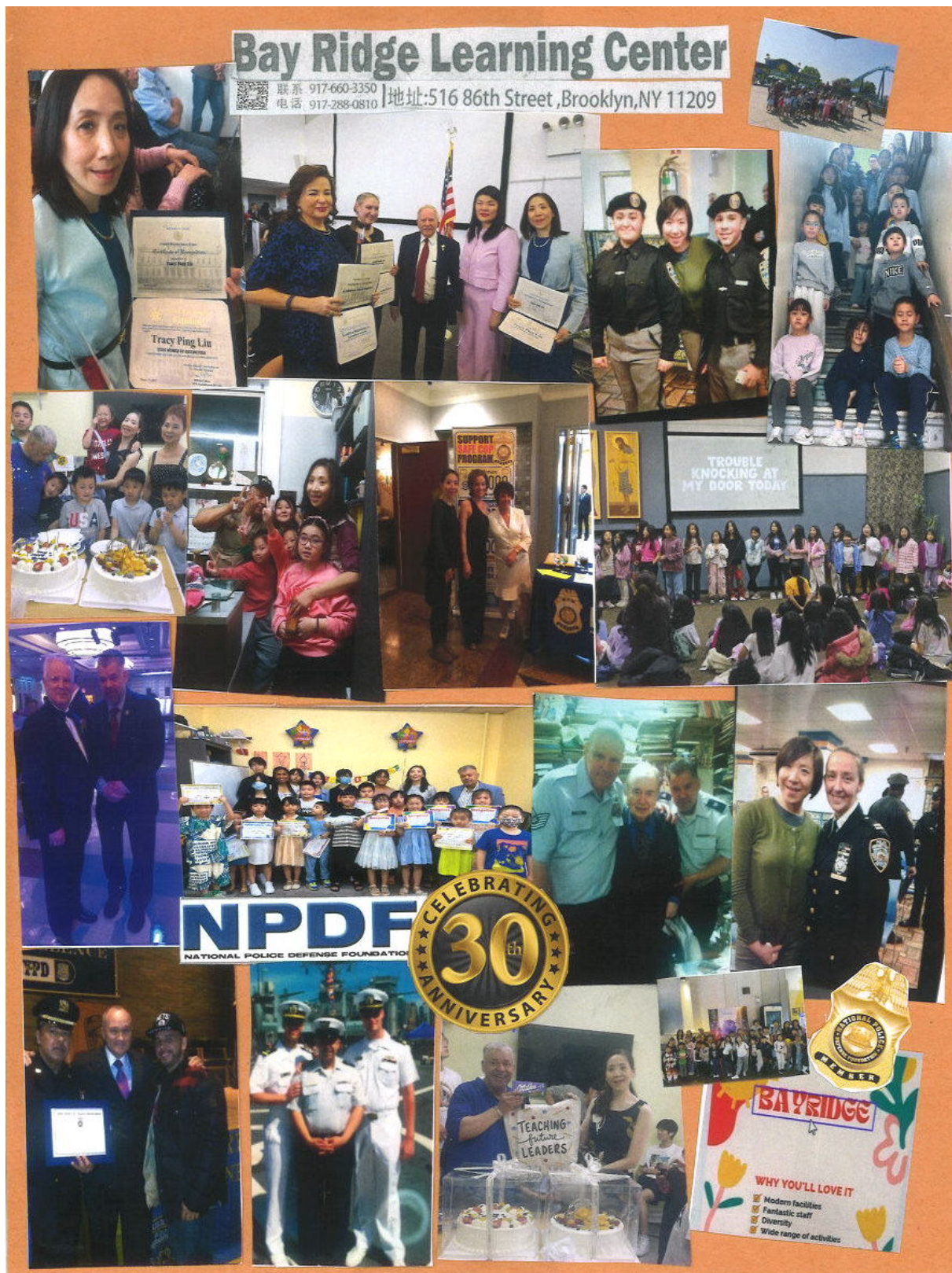
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We wish the Foundation sustained success  
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The Federal Enforcement Homeland Security Foundation was formed to assist Federal Agents through supporting their families with emergency funding. In particular, FEHSF provides monetary support to families of Agents and officers who are seriously injured or killed in the line of duty protecting the nation's citizens or enforcing our laws. Additionally, FEHSF supports those Agents or Agents' families during times of personal difficulties, tragedies or financial hardship.

### WHAT WE DO:

FEHSF is a direct giving Charitable Foundation whose mission is to honor fallen and wounded heroes in Federal Law Enforcement and their immediate families in time of need. FEHSF provides Financial Grants to Federal Agents and their families within 24-48 hours of notification.

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**THE NPDF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JOSEPH OCCHIPINTI AND HIS WIFE, ANGELA, WERE HONORED TO RECEIVE A VIP INVITATIONS TO ATTEND DONALD J. TRUMP'S PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION AND RELATED CEREMONIES IN WASHINGTON, D.C ON JANUARY 20, 2025.**

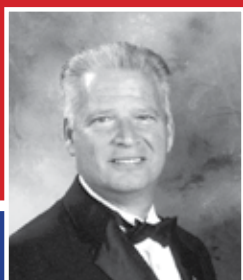


## **Joseph Occhipinti and his wife, Angela attending the Presidential Liberty Ball**

Joseph Occhipinti said, "What an honor for National Police Defense Foundation officials to be invited to such a historic event and we were honored to attend the Presidential Liberty Ball where we met many VIP's, elected officials and the representatives of major police organizations nationwide."



### *"Protecting and Supporting Law Enforcement"*



# The Memoirs of Federal Agent Joseph Occhipinti Who Exposed Drugs, Conspiracy and a Corrupt Justice System



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To the distinguished honorees, we offer our deepest congratulations. Your courage, sacrifice, and service represent the very best of what it means to serve and protect. Your stories inspire and remind us all, of the power of integrity, honor, and resilience.

May your continued efforts bring light, strength, and support to the law enforcement community for generations to come. Thank you for being the guardians of those who safeguard our lives and liberties.

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to

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**Ralph Sozio**  
**Joe Marino**  
**and**  
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US Coast Guard

**Man of the Year**  
**Tom Homan**  
US Border Czar

**Humanitarian Award**  
**Gary Sinise**  
Actor

*Lifetime Achievement Award*  
**Ralph Sozio**  
*US Marshal SDNY*

**Excellence in Media Award**  
**Joe Marino**  
NY Post Reporter

Member of the Year Award  
**ASAC Anthony Lacorazza**  
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# *Congratulations!*

TO THE  
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*Founders Angela & Joe Occhipinti*

On Their **30<sup>TH</sup>** Anniversary  
And The  
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## LAST YEARS AWARD RECIPIENTS

## PERSON OF THE YEAR

# Patrick J. Ryder

Nassau County Police Department



## LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**SAC Frank A. Tarentino III**

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration

## BUSINESSMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

## Peter Unanue

Executive Vice President of Goya Foods



## DISTINGUISHED MEMBER AWARD

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**DET. JACK HOLDER**  
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**MARIO APUZZO, ESQ.**  
**COMBAT CROSS AWARD**

## Police Officer Blake Andrews

# Columbus Police Department

## SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

## Dr. Jordon Josephson

NPDF Police Surgeon





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## ~ 2024 NPDF Awards Dinner ~



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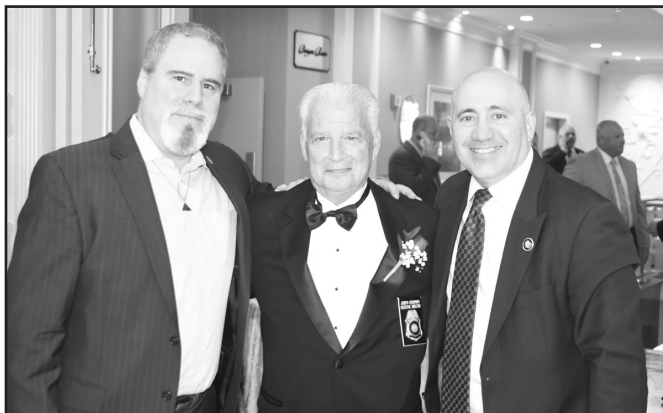
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## ~ Memories of the Past Year ~



**WOODBIDGE, NJ POLICE RECOGNIZE NPDF FAMILY MEMBER, GABRIELLE TONELLI FOR HER DESIGN OF A POLICE MAGNET TO CELEBRATE AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH.**



**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL WOMAN IN LAW ENFORCEMENT  
HONORS NPDF FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
JOSEPH OCCHIPINTI**



**ON AUGUST 22, 2024, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECEIVED THE INTEGRITY AWARD, FROM PRESIDENT JAMES FERGUSON OF THE DET. BARNEY FERGUSON EMERALD LEGACY FUND AWARDS DINNER.**



**ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2024, NPDP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOSEPH  
OCCHIPINTI AND DELEGATE MICHAEL BECKER  
HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF MEETING ACTOR GARY SINISE  
AND SOL MOGLEN WHO CREATED THE  
“THE BROOKLYN 9/11 WALL OF REMEMBRANCE”  
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## AND THEIR 2025 DISTINGUISHED HONOREES

Admiral Zeita Merchant, USCG

## Tom Homan, US Border Czar

# Gary Sinise

Ralph Sozio, US Marshall SDNY

Joe Marino, NY Post

Anthony Lacorazza, USSS

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# Admiral Zeita Merchant

US Coast Guard

## Man of the Year:

# Tom Homan

US Border Czar

### Humanitarian Award:

# Gary Sinise

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Globe & Tony  
Awards

Lifetime Achievement Award:

# Ralph Sozio

US Marshall  
SDNY

### Excellence in Media Award:

# Joe Marino

New York Post  
Reporter

Member of the Year Award:

## ASAC Anthony

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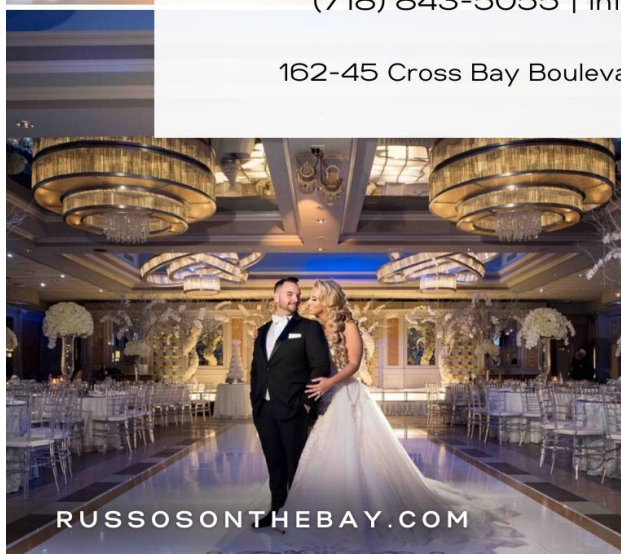
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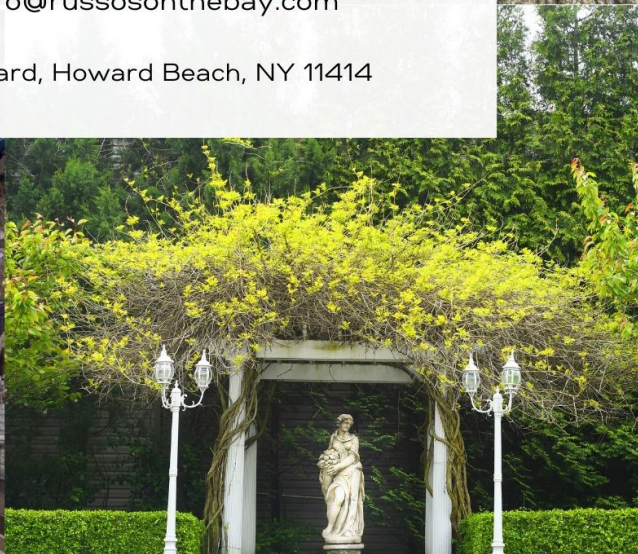
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*to this year's award recipients for their dedication  
to protect and serve the community and  
continued success of the police foundation*

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***Man of the Year - Tom Homan, US Border Czar***

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Congratulations to the National Police Defense Foundation on its annual awards dinner.

We proudly salute the National Police Defense Foundation for their unwavering dedication and incredible work in supporting law enforcement across the nation. Your tireless efforts in promoting public safety, protecting officers, and advocating for justice make a lasting difference in our communities.

We also extend our heartfelt congratulations to this year's honoree's. Your exceptional service and commitment inspire us all.

Thank you for your leadership, bravery, and commitment to the law enforcement community.

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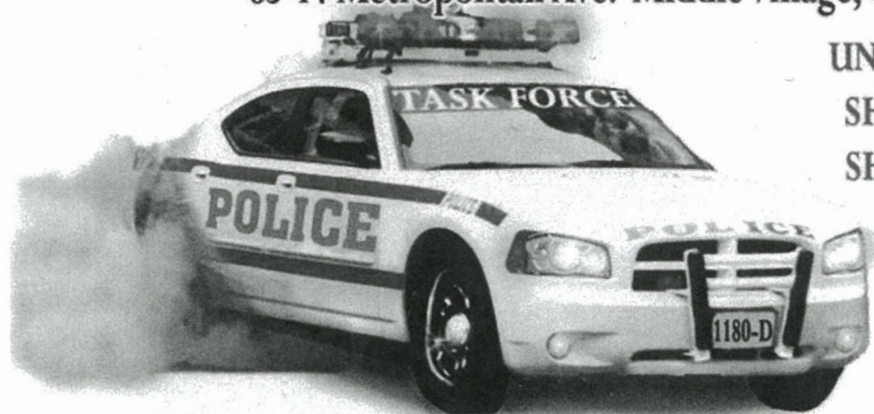
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